DARK HORSE COMICS
#2
(OF 3)
$2.50 U.S.
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THE
TERMINATOR™
ENDGAME

What Came Before . . .

Lieutenant Sloane has disavowed any further connection with Colonel Mary Randall, having murdered an FBI agent who planned to sell off certain Terminator remains to the highest bidder. Unfortunately a new Terminator has appeared in the Canadian tundra, ready for action. While Sarah Connor is soon to give birth to the child slated to be humankind's savior, a brutal killer by the name of Catfish is at large — with Sloane hot on his trail. Meanwhile, Mary Randall has finally made contact with the long-lost Dudley, the half-human/half-Terminator — but he seems to be decidedly more Terminator than human!

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Jackson Guice • Penciller
John Beatty • Inker
Pat Brosseau • Letterer
Gregory Wright • Colorist
John Higgins • Cover Artist
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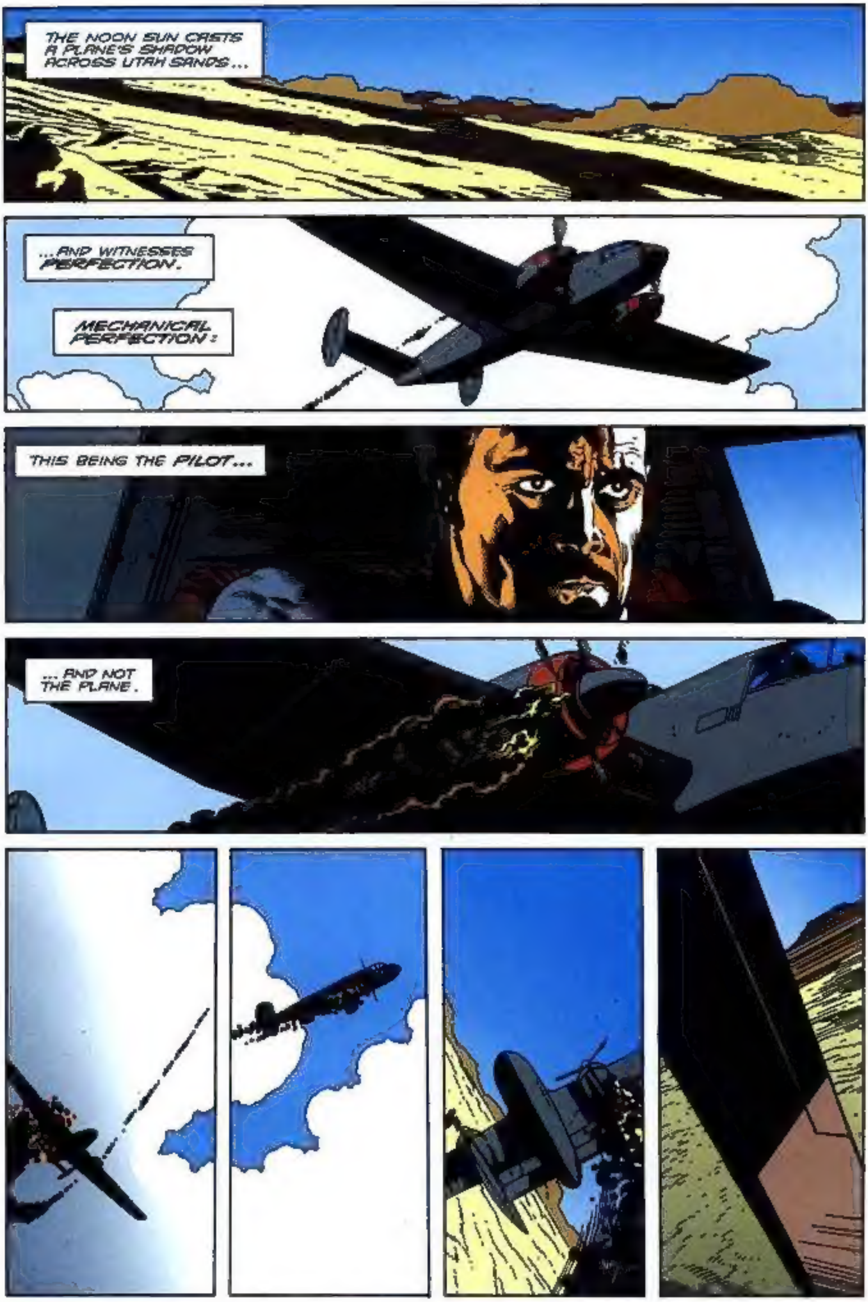
DUDLEY?
WHAT IS IT? YOU--
TERMINATE.

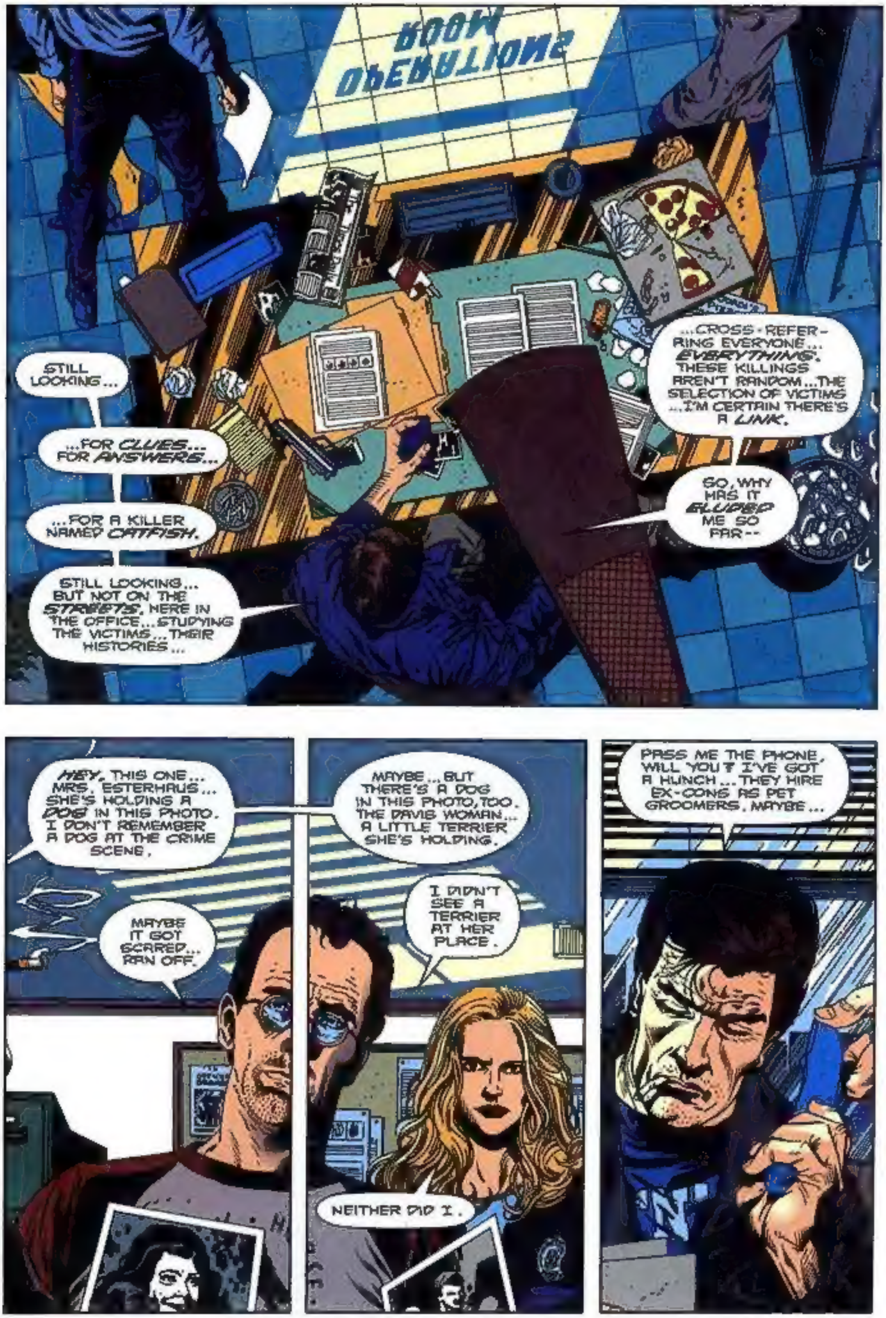
DUD--
WHAT ARE--
DUDLEY IS DEAD.
PART OF HIM. HALF OF HIM.
DIE, YOU...
gh--
ALL THAT'S LEFT...
...IS THE TERMINATOR HALF.
AGH--!

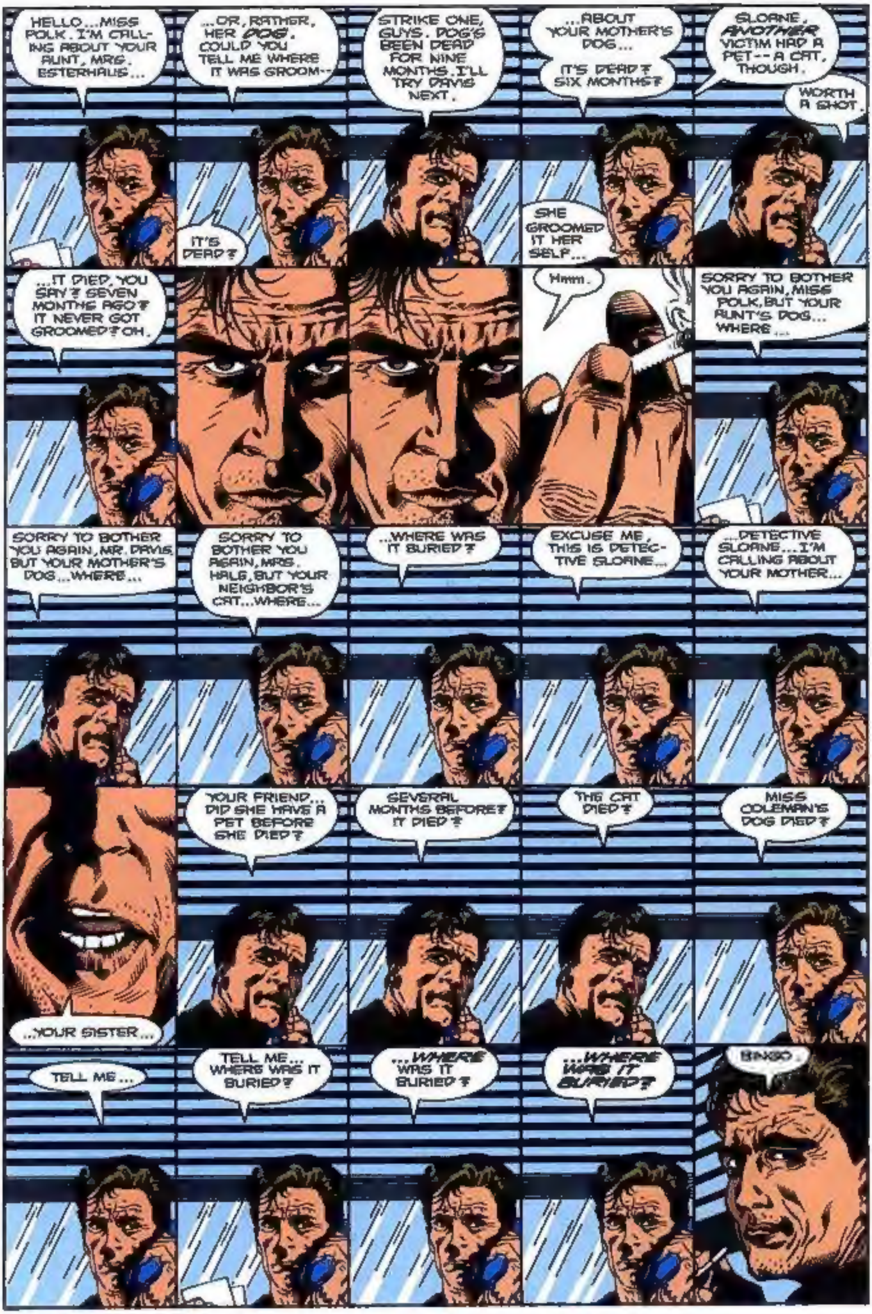
WINDOW.
BOARDING. REMOVE IT. ESCAPE--

NO MORE.
IT ENDS.
IT... ah... AARRGHHHHH!
MARY...
DON'T BE AFRAID... IT'S ME... DUDLEY...
I'M BACK.


THE NOON SUN CASTS A PLANE'S SHADOW ACROSS UTAH SANDS...
...AND WITNESSES PERFECTION.
MECHANICAL PERFECTION:
THIS BEING THE PILOT...
...AND NOT THE PLANE.

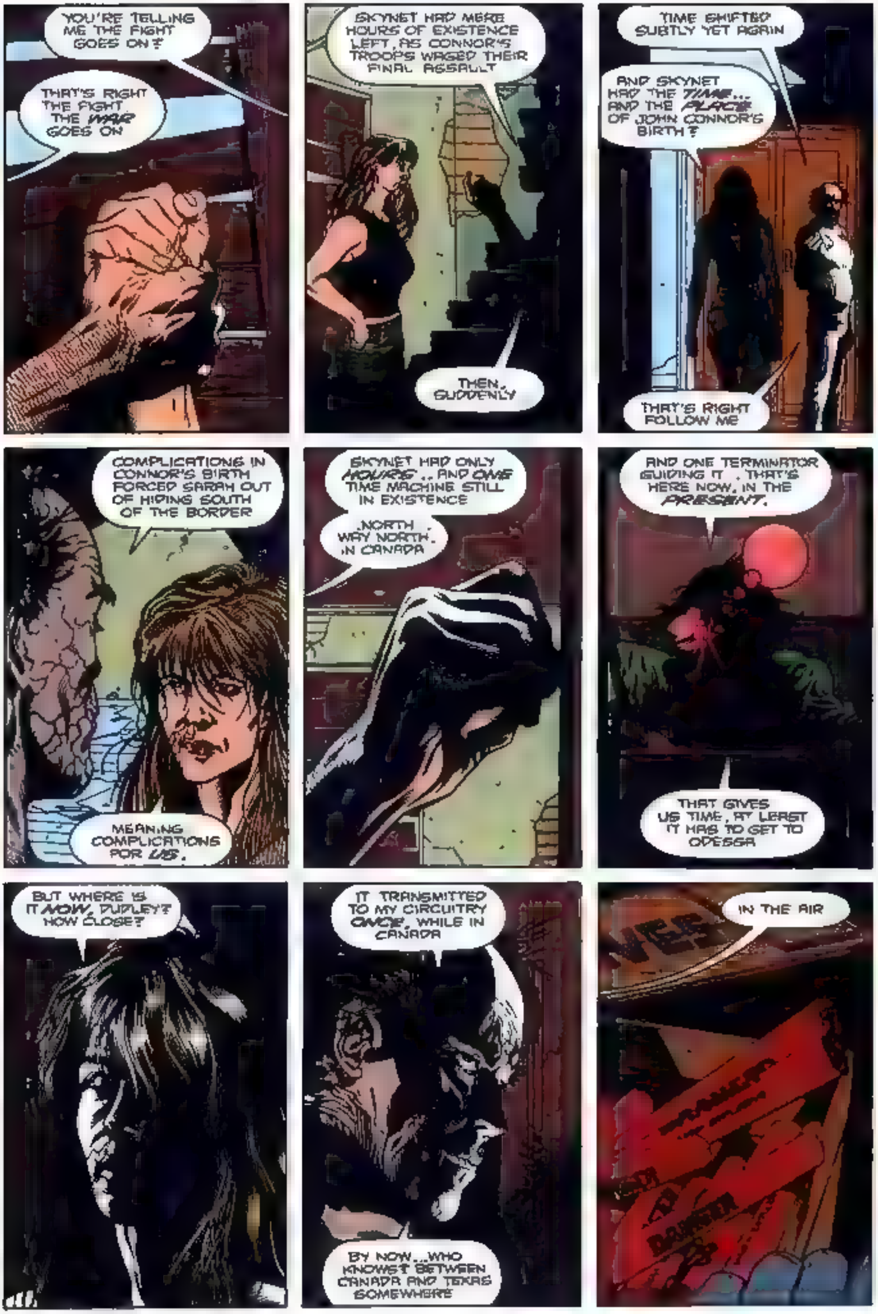
MECHANICAL.
UNSTOPPABLE.
PERFECTION.

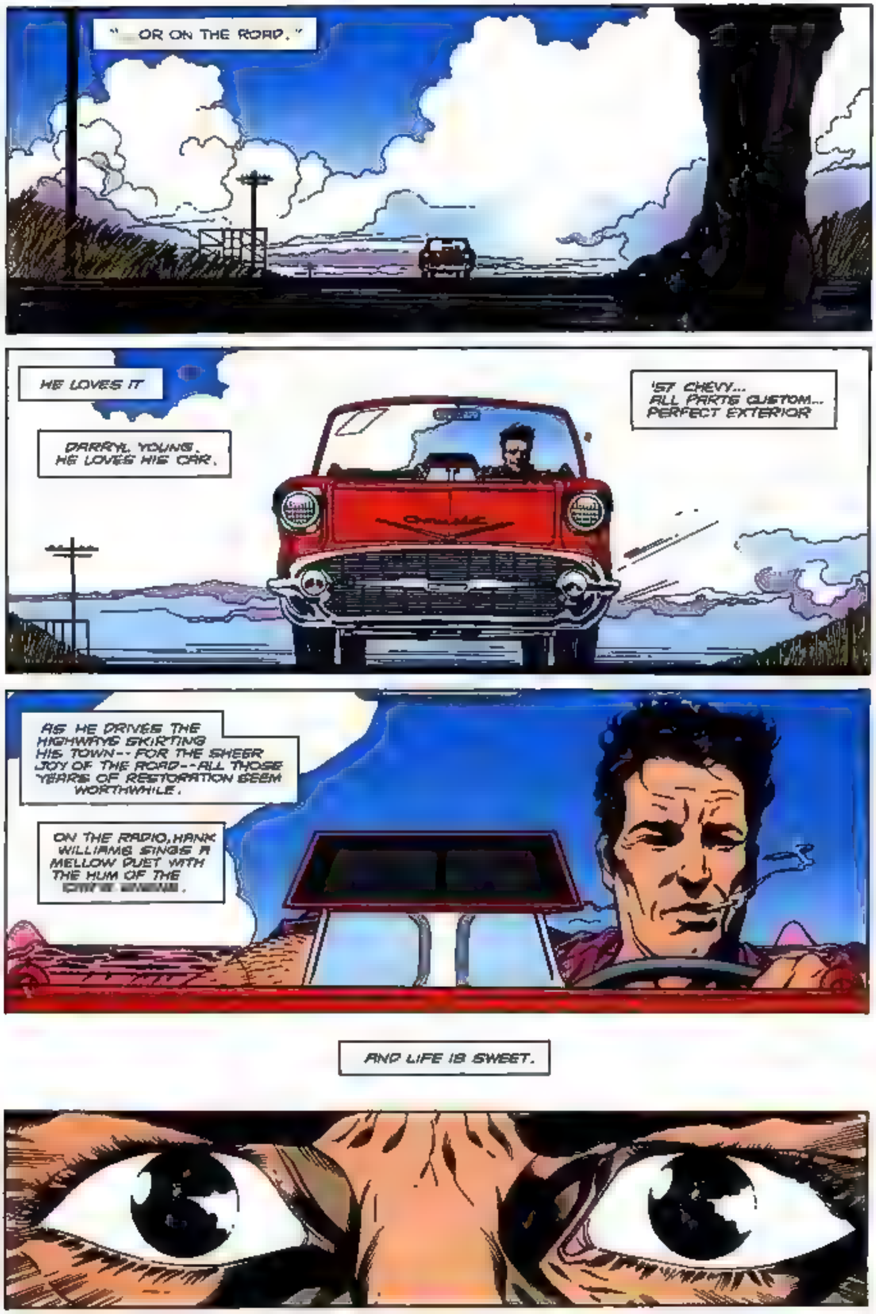

OPERATIONS ROOM
STILL LOOKING...
...FOR CLUES... FOR ANSWERS...
...FOR A KILLER NAMED CATFISH.
STILL LOOKING... BUT NOT ON THE STREETS. HERE IN THE OFFICE...STUDYING THE VICTIMS...THEIR HISTORIES...
...CROSS-REFERRING EVERYONE... EVERYTHING. THESE KILLINGS AREN'T RANDOM...THE SELECTION OF VICTIMS ...I'M CERTAIN THERE'S A LINK.
SO, WHY HAS IT ELUDED ME SO FAR--
HEY, THIS ONE... MRS. ESTERHAUS... SHE'S HOLDING A DOG IN THIS PHOTO. I DON'T REMEMBER A DOG AT THE CRIME SCENE.
MAYBE IT GOT SCARED... RAN OFF.
MAYBE...BUT THERE'S A DOG IN THIS PHOTO, TOO. THE DAVIS WOMAN... A LITTLE TERRIER SHE'S HOLDING.
I DIDN'T SEE A TERRIER AT HER PLACE.
NEITHER DID I.
PASS ME THE PHONE, WILL YOU? I'VE GOT A HUNCH...THEY HIRE EX-CONS AS PET GROOMERS, MAYBE...

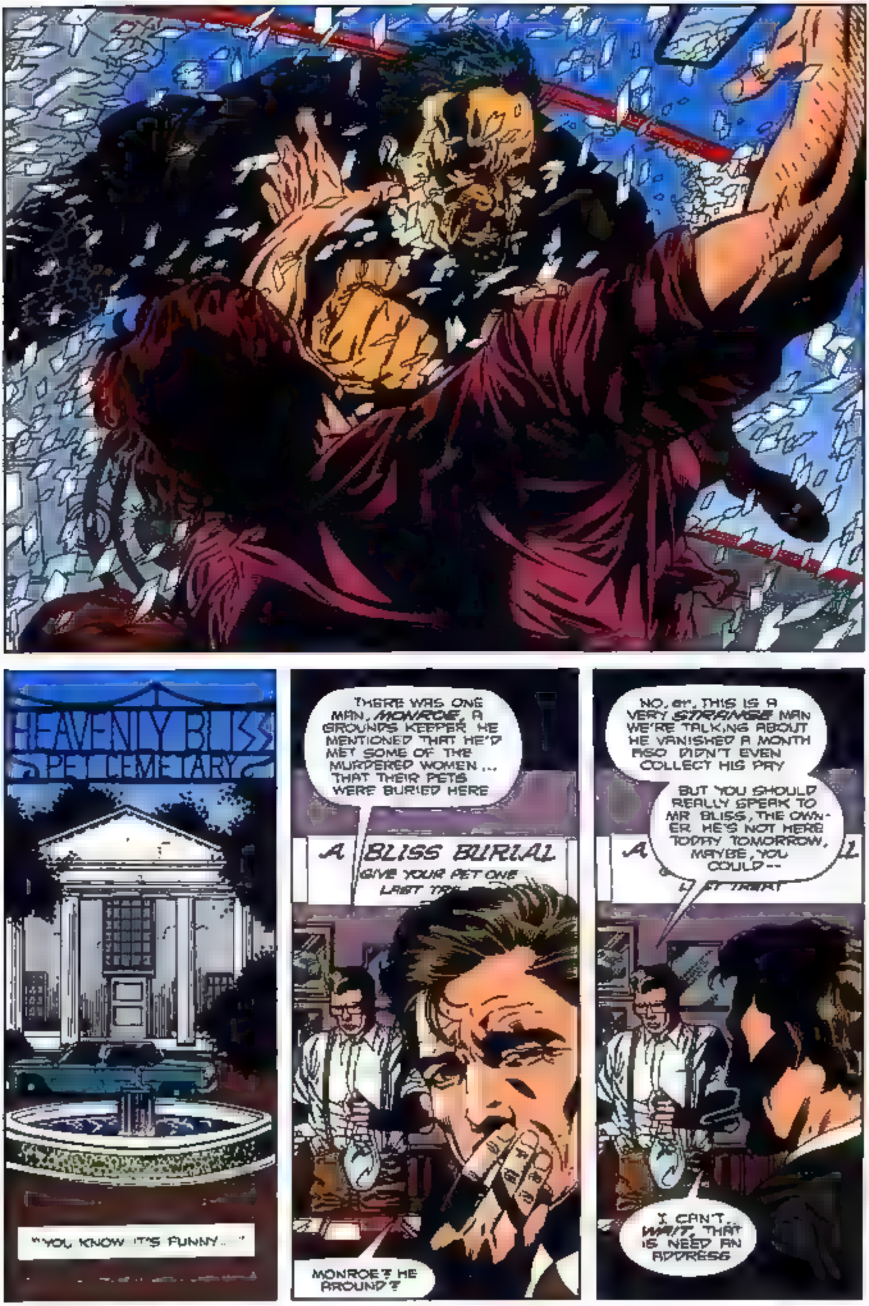

HELLO... MISS POLK. I'M CALLING ABOUT YOUR AUNT, MRS. ESTERHAUS...
...OR, RATHER, HER *DOG*. COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE IT WAS GROOM--
IT'S DEAD?
STRIKE ONE, GUYS. DOG'S BEEN DEAD FOR NINE MONTHS. I'LL TRY DAVIS NEXT.
...ABOUT YOUR MOTHER'S DOG...
IT'S DEAD? SIX MONTHS?
SHE GROOMED IT HERSELF...
SLOANE, *ANOTHER* VICTIM HAD A PET--A CAT, THOUGH.
WORTH A SHOT.
...IT DIED, YOU SAY? SEVEN MONTHS AGO? IT NEVER GOT GROOMED? OH.
Hmm.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN, MISS POLK, BUT YOUR AUNT'S DOG... WHERE...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN, MR. DAVIS, BUT YOUR MOTHER'S DOG... WHERE...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN, MRS. HALS, BUT YOUR NEIGHBOR'S CAT... WHERE...
...WHERE WAS IT BURIED?
EXCUSE ME, THIS IS DETECTIVE SLOANE...
...DETECTIVE SLOANE... I'M CALLING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER...
...YOUR SISTER...
YOUR FRIEND... DID SHE HAVE A PET BEFORE SHE DIED?
SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE? IT DIED?
THE CAT DIED?
MISS COLEMAN'S DOG DIED?
TELL ME...
TELL ME... WHERE WAS IT BURIED?
...*WHERE* WAS IT BURIED?
...*WHERE WAS IT BURIED?*
BINGO.

THE CIRCUITRY IN MY HEAD... REGISTERED NO BRAIN ACTIVITY. IT PRESUMED I WAS DEAD... THAT C890.L HAD KILLED ME.*
BUT IT WAS A COMA... SOME KIND OF BRAIN DEATH. DURING THE STRUGGLE... YOU WHACKED ME ONE ON THE HEAD. IT BROUGHT ME BACK... WOKE ME.
WITH HALF MY BODY SEEMING TO BE DEAD TOO. I GUESS MY CIRCUITRY FIGURED IT WASN'T GOOD FOR MUCH.
* SEE TERMINATOR: THE ENEMY WITHIN #4.
SO... WHY WERE YOU HERE? SAN DIEGO?
IT WAS GOING TO HIDE OUT... WAIT FOR THE BIG BANG... THEN SEE IF IT COULD BE OF ANY USE TO THE MACHINES IN THE FUTURE TO COME.
OUR PAST?
YEAH.
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T ANSWER ANY OF YOUR MESSAGES. THE LAST THING MY MACHINE BRAIN WANTED WAS CONTACT WITH YOU AGAIN.
SO WHY--
DID IT FINALLY MAKE CONTACT? BECAUSE ANOTHER TERMINATOR'S ARRIVED IN THE PRESENT.
IT CONTACTED MY TERMINATOR CIRCUITRY ...IN THE WAY THESE METAL BASTARDS CAN.
IT DECIDED THAT I WAS INDEED GOOD FOR NOTHING... EXCEPT...
...KILLING YOU. YOU, THE ONE LOOSE END THAT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH THE TERMINATOR'S MISSION.
WHICH IS?
AS EVER... SNUFFING SARAH CONNOR.

BUT SHE'S ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH JOHN CONNOR
EXACTLY. I'LL EXPLAIN
"ALL THAT WE'VE DONE IN THE PRESENT IT WORKED; CHANGED THE FUTURE, WHERE THE MACHINES' RULE WAS ABSOLUTE . .
"...NOW... THE HUMANS ARE BEGINNING TO WIN."
YOU MEAN, AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE, WE STILL FAILED? WE DIDN'T ERADICATE THE MACHINES COMPLETELY?
FAILED? NO, WE DELAYED THE MACHINES' EVOLUTION...THEIR STRANGLE-HOLD ON EARTH.
"HUMANITY BEGAN FIGHTING BACK EARLIER WINNING-- WITH VICTORY AS MUCH DUE TO JOHN CONNOR'S LEADERSHIP IN THIS FUTURE TIME AS IT WAS IN OURS.
"IRONICALLY, THIS IS WHAT'S NOW PLACED CONNOR IN DANGER. REBEL VICTORIES MEANT THE WAR BARELY REACHED AREAS OF THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS, IN PARTICULAR."
IN OUR FUTURE...THAT AREA HAD BEEN WIPED CLEAN OF HUMANITY BUT IN THE NEW FUTURE BUILD-INGS ARE STILL STANDING. UNIN-HABITED, SURE--BUT STILL THERE
INCLUDING ODESSA HOSPITAL.
"THE BUILDING'S COMPUTER SYSTEM IS STILL WITHIN IT.. DORMANT BUT INTACT COMPUTER RECORDS ARE STILL ACCESSIBLE TO SKYNET, THE MACHINES' MASTER CONTROL
"THOSE RECORDS HAD DETAILS OF CONNOR'S BIRTH THAT'S WHERE IT HAPPENS: ODESSA, TEXAS."

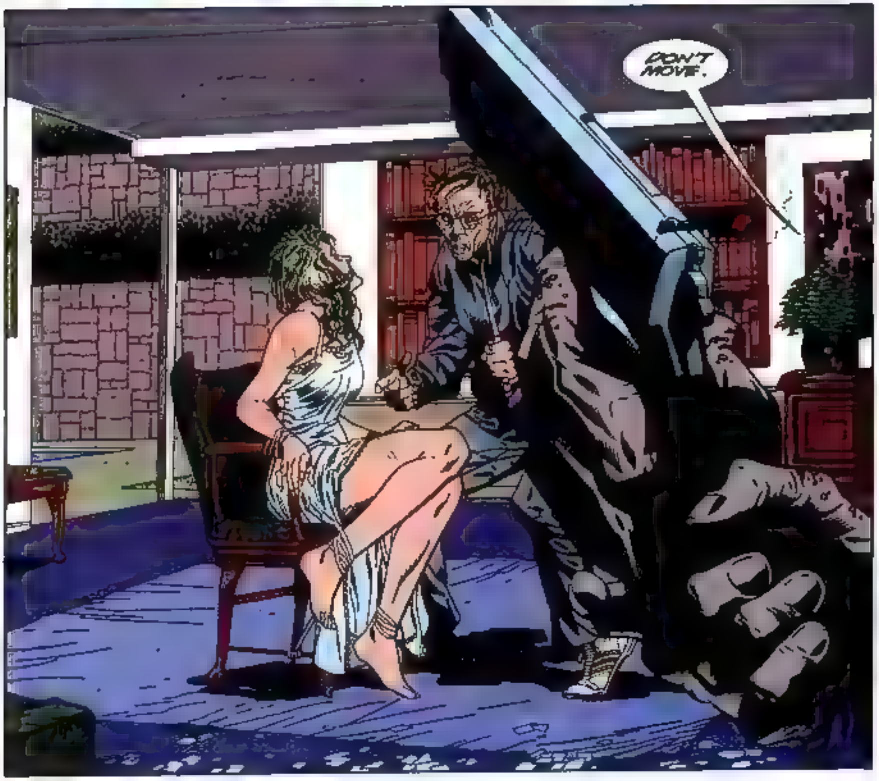

YOU'RE TELLING ME THE FIGHT GOES ON?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE FIGHT. THE WAR GOES ON.
SKYNET HAD MERE HOURS OF EXISTENCE LEFT, AS CONNOR'S TROOPS WAGED THEIR FINAL ASSAULT.
THEN, SUDDENLY
TIME SHIFTED SUBTLY YET AGAIN.
AND SKYNET HAD THE TIME... AND THE PLACE OF JOHN CONNOR'S BIRTH?
THAT'S RIGHT. FOLLOW ME.
COMPLICATIONS IN CONNOR'S BIRTH FORCED SARAH OUT OF HIDING SOUTH OF THE BORDER.
MEANING COMPLICATIONS FOR US.
SKYNET HAD ONLY HOURS... AND ONE TIME MACHINE STILL IN EXISTENCE.
...NORTH. WAY NORTH... IN CANADA.
AND ONE TERMINATOR GUIDING IT. THAT'S HERE NOW, IN THE PRESENT.
THAT GIVES US TIME, AT LEAST. IT HAS TO GET TO ODESSA.
BUT WHERE IS IT NOW, DUDLEY? HOW CLOSE?
IT TRANSMITTED TO MY CIRCUITRY ONCE, WHILE IN CANADA.
BY NOW... WHO KNOWS? BETWEEN CANADA AND TEXAS SOMEWHERE.
IN THE AIR


"...OR ON THE ROAD."
HE LOVES IT
DARRYL YOUNG.
HE LOVES HIS CAR.
'57 CHEVY...
ALL PARTS CUSTOM...
PERFECT EXTERIOR
AS HE DRIVES THE HIGHWAYS SKIRTING HIS TOWN-- FOR THE SHEER JOY OF THE ROAD--ALL THOSE YEARS OF RESTORATION SEEM WORTHWHILE.
ON THE RADIO, HANK WILLIAMS SINGS A MELLOW DUET WITH THE HUM OF THE
AND LIFE IS SWEET.


HEAVENLY BLISS PET CEMETARY
"YOU KNOW IT'S FUNNY..."
THERE WAS ONE MAN, MONROE, A GROUNDS KEEPER. HE MENTIONED THAT HE'D MET SOME OF THE MURDERED WOMEN... THAT THEIR PETS WERE BURIED HERE
A BLISS BURIAL
GIVE YOUR PET ONE
MONROE? HE AROUND?
NO, er, THIS IS A VERY STRANGE MAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. HE VANISHED A MONTH AGO. DIDN'T EVEN COLLECT HIS PAY
BUT YOU SHOULD REALLY SPEAK TO MR BLISS, THE OWNER. HE'S NOT HERE TODAY. TOMORROW, MAYBE, YOU COULD--
I CAN'T. WAIT, THAT IS NEED AN ADDRESS

THE ASSISTANT AT THE PET CEMETARY HIS EYES FULL OF PAPER-WORK AND FILING--NOT MURDER, HE ISN'T CAT-FISH
BUT THIS MONROE GUY SOUNDS PROMISING
SO I'M AT THE HOME OF BLISS, THE PET CEMETARY OWNER TO SEE IF HE CAN SHED LIGHT ON MONROE'S DISAPPEARANCE
HOUSE EXTERIOR'S NICE
REAL NICE
FRESH BLOOD ON THE PATH.
AND AN ODOR... FROM BEHIND THE DOOR
TEN YEARS IN HOMICIDE, YOU GET TO KNOW THAT SMELL REAL WELL...
...OLD BLOOD.. STALE DEATH.
CATFISH LIVES HERE.

BLISS!


DON'T MOVE.

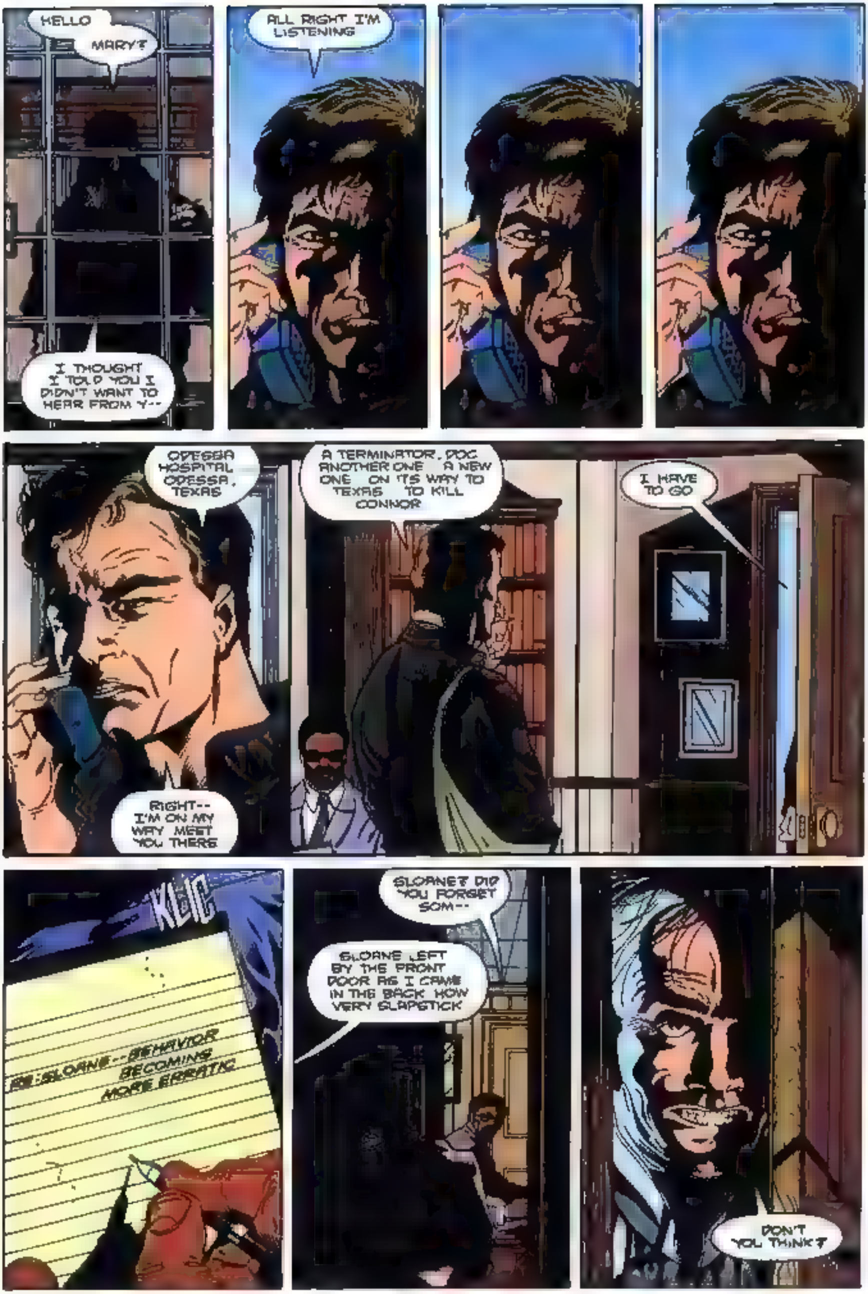
OH, SH--
AHHHHH!
I...
...KNOW YOU.
...SLOANE
NNN--
...KILL YOU.
--HHP!

NH!
TT--AH!
BLISS!
SHOULD HAVE WAITED... GOTTEN BACK-UP .. FOOL... I'M
..I HAVE HIS NAME.. I HAVE HIS FACE.
BUT I DON'T HAVE HIM... CATFISH..

I SAID YOU HAVE TIME TO GET TO TEXAS YOU -- NOT US. MY BODY'S TOO WEAK
AND THE CIRCUITRY IN MY HEAD. I CAN FEEL IT. IF I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS JUST CHIPS 'N' WIRES, I'D SWEAR IT WAS ALMOST ANGRY.
I CAN FEEL IT GETTING STRONGER. IF I FALL ASLEEP. MAYBE EVEN IF I LOSE CONCENTRATION. I KNOW IT'LL GET CONTROL OF ME AGAIN
I'M A LIABILITY AT BEST. AT WORST, I'M DOWNRIGHT DANGEROUS
I'LL BE BETTER OFF GETTING CREATIVE WITH THIS. HE... IT... MY CIRCUITRY... WAS STOCKPILING IT, IN CASE IT HAD TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST MAJOR FORCES. HUMANS
DANGE
EXPLOSIVE
BUT
NO 'BUTS'. THIS IS A WAR, REMEMBER. IN WAR, COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS DIE. VICTORY IS WHAT MAKES THEIR DEATHS MEAN SOMETHING.
WIN, MARY. WIN THE WAR FOR ME.

NEGATIVE DO NOT ENDANGER THIS UNIT. DO NOT
EXPLOSIVES . . . ARSENAL INTENDED AS DEFENSE
NEGATIVE. DO NOT --
WIN THE WAR, MARY

EUGENE LITVAK
M.D., Ph.D.
YOUR NAME IS HAMILTON BLISS...
...AND SIX YEARS AGO YOUR MOTHER DIED OF CANCER DIED IN PAIN.
IT WAS ONLY AFTER DEATH THAT SHE FOUND PEACE, AT LAST
THAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION
PEACE
THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE!
A BRINGER OF PEACE TO LONELY WOMEN. UNTIL...
SLOANE
YOU--WE--HAVE AN APPOINTMENT
NO, THE WOUNDS ARE NOTHING. IT'S MY PRIDE THAT'S HURT
I HAD HIM FOR A MOMENT I HAD HIM
AND THE SICK PART IS HOW I FELT AT THE TIME... ALMOST GRATEFUL
WHEN I WAS DUCKING HIS KNIFE I WASN'T FEARING THE FUTURE. DIDN'T FEEL USELESS HELPLESS-
DAMN MY PAGER CAN I USE YOUR PHONE?
BZZZ
BZZZ

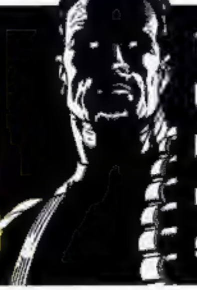

HELLO
MARY?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR FROM Y--
ALL RIGHT I'M LISTENING
ODESSA HOSPITAL ODESSA, TEXAS.
RIGHT-- I'M ON MY WAY MEET YOU THERE
A TERMINATOR, DOC ANOTHER ONE A NEW ONE ON ITS WAY TO TEXAS TO KILL CONNOR
I HAVE TO GO
RE:SLOANE--BEHAVIOR BECOMING MORE ERRATIC
SLOANE? DID YOU FORGET SOM--
SLOANE LEFT BY THE FRONT DOOR AS I CAME IN THE BACK HOW VERY SLAPSTICK
DON'T YOU THINK?

YOUR NAME IS HAMILTON BLI
YOUR NAME IS CATFISH.
AND YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AT WHAT YOU DO
THE DOCTOR TOLD YOU EVERYTHING... ABOUT SLOANE HIS SECRETS, HIS FEARS ABOUT THE FUTURE!
HOW EXCITING...
...I'VE NEVER BEEN TO TEXAS

OCTOBER 3RD
TOMORROW, HUMANITY'S SAVIOR WILL BE BORN
To Protect and Serve
...MAYBE

TO BE CONCLUDED!

TERMINAL CASES



10956 SE MAIN STREET, MILWAUKIE, OREGON 97222

As these words are written, the first issue of *Terminator: Endgame* has just hit the stands — which means, among other things, that this letters page is rather late by publication standards, and if you see it at all, it will be thanks to the tireless efforts of Dark Horse's design department staffers! In the hope that they'll save my editorial butt once again, I herewith present a selection of comments from readers who were sent advance black-and-white preview copies:

Dear Dark Horse,

Before I dive into my critique, I would like to thank you for choosing me as one of your reviewers. My letter in *Comics Buyer's Guide* only touched on the problems I have seen in recent issues of Dark Horse's licensed series. My comments were especially directed at the *Terminator* series, which I feel has gone nowhere but down since the first four-issue series ended. In my opinion Dark Horse has put getting issues out on time and consecutively above getting quality creators involved on the *Terminator* projects. The original *Aliens* series came out with a good deal of time between them. This ensured a quality product rather than a rush job. However, as time went on, more emphasis seemed to be placed on pumping out the stories and less value placed on finding the right team for the job. This was most evident with *Secondary Objectives* and *Enemy Within*. I felt the stories were second-rate and the art was not on a level the subject matter deserved. From the look of *Terminator: Endgame*, I believe this trend has been reversed.

There is very little I can find wrong with the first issue of *Endgame*. The story is excellent so far. There is more than just shoot-'em-up action, although there's some of that, too. This time around we get inside the characters' heads, and they come alive. Mary Randall is especially done well. The times when guns aren't blazing would stump most writers, but James Robinson uses lulls to his benefit and the benefit of the readers.

I would have liked to see more of the Terminator than seven and a half pages of him blowing up a Mountie barracks. As both movies attest, the Terminators attempt to talk their way through a situation and only then use violence. I realize this series is based on the first movie, so let me give some examples. These are where opportunities for dark humor are sometimes passed up.

The Terminator first asks for clothes before taking them. It first asks to see Sarah Connor at the police station, then breaks in and wastes the entire precinct. When it commandeers the semi near the end of the movie, it tells the passenger to "get out" rather than simply killing him. These expand the Terminator's role to something just above a simple killing robot.

I found the ending quite surprising — although I would be even more surprised to read the rest of the series and find Dudley really has been terminated for good. **[Surprise!]**

Jackson Guice's art is superb. I must admit it is an acquired taste, though. His rendering of the human figure and face is flawless. I find his depiction of technology — weapons in particular — to be lacking. Why put all the thought and time into a human figure and then stick a poorly drawn weapon in his or her hand? This is probably nit-picking, but if I'm going to find anything wrong with *Endgame*, it's probably all nit-picking.

I'm sure Gregory Wright's colors will only add to this excellent book. And John Higgins' covers will undoubtedly be equally excellent. I commend Diana Schutz on redeeming herself in my eyes by putting together an incredible team, which has put together an incredible book.

Once again, thanks for the preview. It's nice to know *some* companies take criticism seriously.

Todd M. Walker
Worner Box 150 CC
Colorado Springs, CO 80946

Thanks for writing such a thoughtful letter, Todd. In answer to reader requests, while Dark Horse has renewed its commitment to publish the licensed titles on a more regular basis than in the past, that doesn't mean we plan to sacrifice quality in the process. The ideal, of course, is to publish high-quality comics *and* deliver them to you on time. We're human, though, and we can sometimes slip in one direction or the other. Glad that *Endgame* is living up to your expectations.

Dear Diana:

Thank you once again for sending me the

latest in comic-book excellence from the minds at Dark Horse Comics. I really enjoyed the book. It was a very bright spot in a rather dull day.

Of all the books that I have gotten, this series is the one that I was hoping I might get. Don't get me wrong — I have enjoyed every book that you have sent me and hope that you will send more. But, really, any reviewer worth his salt would love to get *the* series from Dark Horse. The one thing I found going through this book is that both writing and art were the best they could have been. One wasn't better, or worse, than the other. I have seen, and I'm sure you have too, many books that were strong in story but weak in art, or vice versa. I must admit that one thing I look for in a book is the quality of the art. In this book I saw top-of-the-line work. Even though it was in black-and-white, I still saw the best. I can't wait for the color version of the book — it should add that much more to make the book a classic first issue.

Even though I admit that I have never read the previous *Terminator series* (heresy, I know), I felt that I didn't need to. With the beginning introduction, I knew exactly where I was and what went before. This story was clear, concise, and moved rapidly — very rapidly. It was a real page-turner. I was sorry that it ended. Now I have to wait until October to find out what happens to Dudley and Sarah. Oh, well. Such is life.

Once again, thank you for sending me the book. Of a possible four blood-stained bullets, *Terminator: Endgame* gets four. (What else?)

Galen S. West
1236 Mt. Whitney Lane
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Blood-stained bullets?! Well, thanks for the high rating just the same, Galen. Not everyone would agree, however . . .

Dear Diana,

I was excited to see that the new series was entitled *Endgame*. I'm a fan of Becket and thought it was cool that the Terminator would be going absurdist. Guess I jumped to conclusions.

Truthfully, I'm not familiar with the previous books in the series (except for the Matt Wagner one-shot). I was never really interested. I didn't think that the idea of the machines sending back one Terminator after another could sustain itself for very long. It would be like the old *Incredible Hulk* TV series wherein each episode hinged around Bill Bixby finally changing — only here it would be holding our breath 'til another Terminator showed up and started killing people. I see you've tried to combat that by creating a continuing story line with continuing characters, but I'm sorry to say that they don't grab me. *Terminator: Endgame* #1 was a yawn.

Perhaps if I had been reading these books since day one, it would be a little more pleasing to me. It's hard to say. I just call 'em as I see 'em. Sorry.

Jamie S. Rich
42451 North 32nd Street West
Lancaster, CA 93536

P.S. Jackson Guice's art was nice and crisp (just in case you thought I couldn't say *anything* positive).

No need to apologize for your opinions, Jamie. We really do appreciate *all* feedback — positive or negative. While we're warmed by praise, we don't expect to please everyone all the time, and we learn an invaluable lesson from those of you who offer constructive criticism.

Dear Dark Horse,

The advance copy of *Terminator: Endgame* filled my heart with joy and was a very unexpected birthday present. I was afraid *Enemy Within* was the last *Terminator* series put out by Dark Horse Comics. I've enjoyed Dark Horse comics for years now, and you've sent me two other advance copies of upcoming comics, which I enjoyed to the limit — now I've gone beyond the limit. After seeing the full-color ads for *RoboCop vs. the Terminator*, I really didn't think I could wait for it to come out, and now by the will of the gods, here it is!

Wow! is what I have to say about this comic. James Robinson continues to astound me with his ingenious plot lines in this adventure to save mankind. The new Terminator in this series is the most dark and deadly Terminator since the original movie. The story carries itself beautifully. The beginning, when Colonel Randall (too sexy for this comic) blew up the building, thus insuring the survival of the human race (or so she thinks), took me totally off-guard.

The art is way cool — by far the best since the first series. Jackson really captures the images needed to show the cold, unfeeling killing machine that is the Terminator.

Thanks a bunch for the preview copy. Until another company makes a better series of Terminator comics (yahhhh, right!), make mine Dark Horse.

Terminally yours,

James "Aliens" Stambaugh
1004 Springfield Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

James, why is Mary Randall, um, "too sexy for this comic"? I don't get it. You don't mean to imply that her beautiful body and sharp mind are a rare combination in the real world, do you? But one that we see all the time in comics (especially the beautiful body stuff)? Well, there's no doubt that Jackson ranks in the upper echelons of so-called "good girl" artists — just wait 'til you see his work in the upcoming Aliens/Predator team-up!

Dear Diana,

Yup. I liked it. Good show.

There, I've given you my general, overall opinion of *Terminator: Endgame* #1. So, *now* comes the part where I ponder over the possible futures of this story.

Now, Sloane's character development is very interesting, and I am intrigued by "Catfish." Obviously the murders are going to have to tie into the Terminator story line or else Sloane and Catfish would be irrelevant and wouldn't be depicted anymore. So, perchance, is Dudley involved somehow with Catfish? Could he be Catfish? And if so, why?

What's to become of our darling Mary now?

She seemed content with her dull, unremarkable existence, save that she missed ol' Dudley. Now she's found him, and we are left with a feeling of imminent attack, perhaps even her death. This would undoubtedly weigh in on the "negative" scale in Mary's mind, I'm sure.

Also, regarding Sarah Connor: we know that she will be in this book, but will we receive any sort of update on what's been happening to the poor woman? Has she just been prancing merrily about with her bulging uterus, secure in the knowledge that she can prevent the destruction of all mankind?

So, you folks have once again managed to shamelessly hook my interest with your comic — and, I'm sure, countless other readers, particularly since this series will feature the long-awaited return of the ever-elusive Ms. Connor. The story seems to be good, and the art looks at least above average. It has that same straightforward quality that has become monotonous in the past, but this time, with better shading and more interesting points-of-view, manages to surpass what came before it. Pristine but not alienating, it gets a "thumbs up" from me.

If you continue to put out interesting comic books that display talent and intelligence, I'll keep buying them, okay? If you want, I'll even keep telling you what I think of them. One thing, though: I'm kind of confused by the last page. Does Dudley have a big tumor on his back, or what? Anyway, thanks for delivering a great book. Talk to ya later!

Matt Fagan
Box #261, Reed College
3203 SE Woodstock
Portland, OR 97202

Dudley's grotesque appearance at the end of issue #1 is due, as you've now seen, to his human self having suffered the ravages of coma — not to mention nearly having been killed by C890.L in *The Enemy Within*. But, Matt — um, "bulging uterus"?

Dear Diana,

The first issues of some miniseries wind up being more setup than story — which ends up as not very satisfying. *Terminator: Endgame* #1 was more than setup: it was a continuation of the story.

And I have been a fan of the lush artwork of Jackson Guice from the first time I saw it. John Beatty seems to have helped by giving it a hard edge.

I think this fits well between the two movies. Good work. And thanks for the preview.

Melissa Page
236 New Salem Loop
Nortonville, KY 42442

Thank you for the kind words, Melissa. I am equally impressed by the combination of Jackson Guice and John Beatty — two real sweethearts as well as talented artists — and am pleased that their pencilling/inking partnership will continue in the pages of the Aliens/Predator team-up, written by Christopher Claremont with color art by Gregory Wright — coming your way in '93! End of plug.

UNSUNG HEROES

In the last year, I've watched Dark Horse grow tremendously: from a staff of maybe 15 people during the summer of '92 to our current 70-plus! You've seen our in-house staff credits listed on The Finish Line page get progressively smaller in order to accommodate all the names . . . and maybe you've wondered about who some of those people are. I thought I'd take this space to spotlight a few of them — specifically, this time, those wonderful guys in our shipping department!

Jeff Gillis heads up the department, overseeing the work of Mike Van Horn, Ben Radcliffe, and Brian Neubauer. But what do they do? Well, I won't pretend I know it all, but, for starters, every Thursday when the new books arrive, these guys make sure that complimentary copies of the comics are distributed to the office staff — and we all take our comics very seriously around here! Jeff, Mike, Ben, and Brian also distribute the mail — lately sorting through the hundreds of *John Byrne's Next Men* trading card requests that they've been deluged with daily. They also take the time to squirrel away my weekly copy of *Comics Buyer's Guide* before any gremlins can surreptitously run off with it! These guys handle all the inventory, hauling boxes of comics up and down stairs, make last-minute Federal Express runs for editors who miss the 3 p.m. pickup (yes, that's me!), and even take care of recycling all the massive amounts of paper generated by the company! All that work — and eco-sensitivity, too!

Well, I'm sure that Jeff, Mike, Ben, and Brian do lots more than the few things I've listed here, but I just wanted to tip the editorial hat their way. Thanks, guys.

And now back to our regularly scheduled letters page . . .

Next Issue: Sarah Connor goes into labor — with the Terminator on her trail!

— Diana Schutz